		A group of 2 'A' Type Canteens	A group of more than 2 'A' type Canteens
13.	General Manager	1	1
14.	Deputy General Manager	—	1
15.	Accountant	1	1
16.	Cashier	1	1
17.	Store-keeper	1	1
18.	Internal Auditor	1 (part-time)	1 (part-time)

Sale of Unpopular Brand Items at Kendriya Bhandar

*240. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not so popular and reputed brand of consumer items are on sale through the branch stores of the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to review the items on its inventory and to immediately weed out the unpopular brands selling at the cost of the popular brands to uphold the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar, as far as possible, tries to make available commodities on its shelves as per customers' choice and preference. As the preferences of the customers, in certain cases, keep on changing, some of the brands become unpopular. As a result of periodical review, brands which do not sell are struck off from the inventory of items to be purchased.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-Russia Agreement in Agriculture

1706. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed a work plan for cooperation in agriculture and allied areas;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) An agreement was signed on 25th March, 1997 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russion Federation on cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection. The agreement aims at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries, reduction of crop losses caused by them as well as for further development of trade and exchange of planting material, agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries.

The agreement has come into force on the date of its signing and no separate work plan is envisaged to be signed under this agreement.

The Indian Council of Agriucltural Research (ICAR), India has also signed a

Work Plan with the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS), Russia on 25.11.1997 for cooperation in agricultural research ande allied subjects. The Work Plan aims at scientific and technical cooperation, exchange of information and materials between both the countries through coordination and conducting a joint research projectoral trials that may be mutually identified and by organizing bilateral Workshops and Seminars on topics of mutual interest.

The Work P-lan is likely to be implemented by 31.12.1999.

Area Under Fodder Crops

1707. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would be economically more appropriate to increase area under fodder crops to ensure healthier cattle;

(b) whether the economics of enhanced fodder cultivation and the dairy sector has been worked out;

(c) what would be the ideal ratio of dairy and cereals production in the agricultural sector;

(d) whether any efforts are underway to achieve this ideal production ratio of dairy products and cereals; and

(e) if so, details of specific plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The economic of fodder production and dairy sector has been worked out. The cost-benefit ratio ranges from 1.5 to 3.0 in different fodder cropping system.

(c) There is no systematic study to find out the ideal production ratios of dairy production and cereals.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner

1708. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for keeping the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner vacant indicating the period of such vacancy and action initiated to fill up the post;

(b) whether the A.H. Commissioner is the chairperson of Indian Chapter of WWF;

(c) if so, the compelling grounds for such long deferment; and

(d) status of the proposal towards formation of Indian Council of Veterinary Research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Filling up of the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner has always been under the active consideration of the Government and the Union Public Service Commission have now recommended a candidate for appointment to the post of Animal Husbandry Commissioner.

The Central Government is not involved in the functioning of WWF.

(d) No decision has yet been taken to set up Indian Council of Veterinary Research under this Department.

उड़ीसा के सूखा प्रभावित लोगों के लिए योजनाएं

1709. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पिछले कई वर्षों से उड़ीसा में सूखे व भुखमरी की स्थिति है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सर्वाधिक प्रभावित जिले कौन-कौन से हैं और गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इनमें अनुमानत: कितना नुकसान हुआ;

(ग) क्या सूखे व भुखमरी की स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के प्राधिकारियों ने कभी राज्य के प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो राज्य में इस समस्या के स्थायी समाधान हेतु बनाई गई योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और